

Stories of the Kingdom Discussion Questions 07.16.17

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Share a story about a favorite gift you have received. How did it make you feel?
2. What good gifts has God given you?

Background

This section follows the story of Jesus staying with Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus and opens with the disciples asking Jesus to teach them how to pray. Jesus gives them a simple formula to follow when they pray and then continues to explain the importance of asking for what they need.

One common element of the various cultures in the ancient near east is the importance of providing hospitality. This is still a critical part of the middle eastern cultures today. So when Jesus used that as the basis for his story it would have resonated with his audience.

Read Luke 11:1-13

Questions

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. What similarities and differences do you see between what Jesus teaches his disciples to pray here and in Matthew 6:9-13?
2. What reason does Jesus give as the reason the reluctant friend got out of bed to give bread to the one asking?
3. In verses 9 and 10 what are the three things Jesus says we need to do?
4. What does Jesus say is the key to receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. What would or would not need to change to bring the story of the friend who comes at midnight into a modern context?
2. What does it look like to ask, seek and knock?
3. What was it like the first time you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. What does it look like to boldly ask for the good gift of the Holy Spirit?
2. How do we combat the "health, wealth and prosperity gospel that has grown out of misinterpreting texts like this?
3. How can we each model Jesus's teaching in this passage to the people in our lives?

Closing

Spend some time praying together following the guide Jesus gave to his disciples, specifically asking for renewed awareness of the Holy Spirit.

Reminder: Stories are a crucial element used to help us connect with others, know where we came from and where we are going. As citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven it is critical for us to know and tell our stories as they remind us of who saved us, what he has left us to do and where we will spend eternity.